

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAGUA 3541

E. AS A RESULT OF THE DECEMBER 1972 EARTHQUAKE, SHORT-RANGE AID MISSION PROJECTS IN NICARAGUA HAVE AS FIRST PRIORITY RECONSTRUCTION, BUT LONG-RANGE PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS CONTINUE TO BE IN THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LOWER-INCOME RURAL SECTORS. INOWURSUNG THE AID OBJECTIVE TO STRENGTHEN FREE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS IN NICARAGUA, AIFLD EFFORTS IN THESE THREE SECTORS ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO GENERAL AID MISSION OBJECTIVES. NURSES GROUPS WHO WORK IN LOCAL HOSPITALS IN CHINANDAGE AND RIVAS CURRENTLY ARE ASSISTED BY AIFLD AS ARE AFFILIATES OF THE DEMOCRATIC TEACHERS' CONFEDERATION, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS WORK IN RURAL SCHOOLS. AMONG RURAL WORKERS, AID IS PROVIDING INSTRUCTION IN UNION ORGANIZATION TO BANANA WORKERS IN THE NORTHWEST AREA OF NOCARAGUA WHERE SOME 5,000 BANANA WORKERS ARE POTENTIAL UNION MEMBERS, A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE LABOR SECTOR IN NICARAGUA. IN ADDITION, MOST OF AIFLD'S PROJECTS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD LABOR GROUPS OUTSIDE MANAGUA IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES WHICH HAVE AN AGRICULTURAL BASE. THERE, THEREFORE, IS A BALANCED RURAL/URBAN MIX IN AIFLD ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH MISSION PRIORITIES AND WITH USAID'S NEW WORLDWIDE POLICY OF CONCENTRATING ON LOWER-INCOME RURAL AND URBAN GROUPS.

F. MISSION SEES NO IMPORTANT SHIFT IN EMPHASIS FOR THE FY 74/75 FUNDING PERIOD.

G. PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR ACHIEVING MOST OBJECTIVES OF
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THE AIFLD/N PROGRAM THIS YEAR. THE OBJECTIVES, HOWEVER,

WERE DRAFTED ON THE BASIS OF A \$132,000 BUDGET FOR FY 1973 WHEREAS ONLY \$100,000 WAS ALLOTTED TO THE PROGRAM. PERHAPS UNREALISTIC EVEN BEFORE THE BUDGET REDUCTION, ONLY ABOUT HALF THE NUMBER OF TRAINED TRADE UNIONISTS PLANNED FOR WILL HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY YEAR'S END AS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS. DUES COLLECTION OBJECTIVES WILL ALSO BE BELOW THE GOALS SET FOR THE PROGRAM, LARGELY BECAUSE OF INFLATIONARY PRESSURES AND ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AS A RESULT OF THE EARTHQUAKE.

H. THE AIFLD PROGRAM COMPLEMENTS MISSION AND HOST COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR FY 1974/75 IN THAT THE LABOR ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES IT CARRIES OUT WILL HELP TO INSURE IN AN INFLATIONARY PERIOD THAT THE LOWER-INCOME GROUPS ARE ACCORDED BY MANAGEMENT A FAIR SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF AN IMPROVED ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY AS MORE THAN MARGINAL CONSUMERS. AIFLD/ NICARAGUA PROJECTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE MAIN THRUST OF AID MISSION PROJECTS.

I. AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO LOCAL LABOR ENTITIES WHICH COULD EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT CURRENT AIFLD ACTIVITIES. THE LABOR MINISTRY HAS NEITHER THE INTEREST NOR HAS THE GOVERNMENT ALLOTTED IT THE RESOURCES TO DO SO. THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATIONS WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THE WORK BUT ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH. THERE IS A NEW INSTITUTE OF LABOR TRAINING IN THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WHICH MAY IN THE FUTURE FULFILL SOME OF AIFLD'S FUNCTIONS, HOWEVER, IT HAS VERY LIMITED RESOURCES AND IS MARXIST INFLUENCED. AT LEAST AT PRESENT IT COULD NOT BE COUNTED ON TO WORK TOWARD A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT.

J. UNLESS PRESENT CONDITIONS CHANGE, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM BE MAINTAINED FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND PERHAPS FOUR. THE SUBSEQUENT PHASE-OUT SHOULD BE EXTENDED OVER A ONE TO TWO YEAR PERIOD AFTER WHICH INPUTS FROM A REGIONAL OFFICE WHICH COULD OFFER IN-COUNTRY COURSES AND ADVISORY PERSONNEL AS NEEDED WOULD PROBABLY MEET NEEDS FOR MAINTAINING A DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN NICARAGUA AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL AND

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CONTINUING ITS GROWTH.
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